The Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) and the Food Corporation of India (FCI) also undertake construction of warehouses in various locations throughout the country for storage of foodgrains and other essential commodities. At present, CWC's godowns are under construction in Madhya Pradesh at Suhagpur in District Hoshangabad (5000 MT) and at Narsingpur in District Jabalpur (4100 MT). During the Eighth Plan period, a total additional capacity of about 65000 MT is proposed to be created by CWC in Madhya Pradesh. FCI has proposals to construct godowns at Ujjain (5000 MT) and Itarsi (15000 MT) during the Eight Plan period.

[English]

Science Councillors Abroad

5559. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Science and Technology has five scoience councillors posted in foreign countries;

(b) if so, the countries where these are posted;

(c) the nature of work assigned to these officials; and

(d) the annual expenditure born by the Government in maintaining their offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGRET ALVA): (a) and (b). There are four Science Counsellors posted in foreign countries, namely in Germany, Japan, Russia and U. S. A.

(c) Their work pertains to the implementation of bilateral programmes of cooperation in Science and Technology keeping the Indian agencies and institutions informed about the latest scientific and technicalogical advancements, assembling and analysing the latest S&T developments in the host countries and other similar activities pertaining to scoience and technology.

(d) The annual expenditure was Rs. 114.34 lakhs during the last for all the Counselloras.

Import of Coal

5560. SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the imports of various types of coal during the past three years;

(b) the reasons therefor;

(c) the target period for achieving self-sufficiency in coal production; and

(d) the details of the available resources of coal in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b). Integrated steel plant are the main importers of low ash coking coal for the pupose of blending with indigenous coal for meeting the gap between the indigenous availability and the demand and also to improve the quality of overall blend to be used in steel plants. Coking coal imported by steel plants during the last 3 years is given below: –

Year	Coking Coal imported (million tonnes)
1988-89	4.49
1989-90	4.66
1990-91	5.72

(c) Steps have been taken to augment indigenous availability of coking coal. As a result, the import of coking coal by the steel plants is likely to come down progressively.

(d) The Geological Survey of India has estimated (as on 1.1.92) the reserves of coal in the country as 196 billion tonnes.

Clearance of Projects of E. C. L.

5561. SHRI HARADHAN ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited and the Administrative Ministry gives clearance to Eastern Coalfields Limited for further projects after it is ensured the extent to which the earlier projects have been implemented by the undertaking;

(b) if so, the names of the projects reviewed; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) to (c). Clearance of coal Projects for investment approval is given after considering various factors like demand of coal, infrastructural facilities available, techno-economic viability of the project, environmental and forestry clearances and availability of resources etc. Monitoring of progress of implementation of sanctioned and on-going projects is an independent activity undertaking by the subsidiary company, Coal India Ltd., and Ministry of Coal. Presently there are 6 major projects each costing over Rs. 100.0 cores under implementation in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. These projects are being closely monitored every month at various levels.

Entry of Multinational Companies

5562. SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Multinational Companies invest in developing countries for cheap labour, make export to their country of origin and also have repatriation of profit;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to prevent our labourers from being fleeced by Multinational Companies; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent our country being fleeced by Multinational Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c). The Government's policy is to welcome foreign investment which would bring the much needed foreign exchange, additional resources for investment and generated employment, foreign investment would also bring in technology transfer, market expertise and modern managerial practices which, in turn, enhance the possibility for exports. Availability of manpower at competitive wage levels would remain an important factor for attracting foreign investment in India. However, the foreign investor would also be governed by the labour laws of the country and repatriation of